

DECISION RECORD & CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Project Name: Bunny Meadows (CE OR116-08-23)

BLM Office: Ashland R.A., Medford District. Phone # (541) 618-2369

DESCRIPTION & LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

The 10-acre Bunny Meadows area, previously used as a gravel stockpile area, is a popular parking area for accessing Timber Mountain OHV area, and had developed into an OHV play area. Bunny Meadows is adjacent to Forest Creek and Poormans Creek, tributaries to the Applegate River. The area is also adjacent to a residential area. In the past year, OHV issues such as public safety, excessive exhaust noise, and riding in the riparian area forced the BLM to close the area to OHV riding. Shooting bottles and cans, and the dumping of woody debris, dirt, and trash are also common in this area.

BLM plans to spread the numerous piles of dirt and material, used as an OHV play track, across the area to eliminate OHV features. The area will then be fenced and large 2.5-3-foot diameter rocks will be placed along the fence as a protective barrier. BLM will seed and plant the disturbed area with native seed and trees. Dirt piles and burms adjacent to the creeks will be left undisturbed. A small area on the north side of the yard would be left to accommodate 8-12 vehicles for parking. Fencing will help deter OHV users from accessing the area. Reseeding and planting will reduce sedimentation to adjacent to creeks. Restricting access may decrease impacts to resources and improve public safety.

PLAN CONFORMANCE

The proposed action is in compliance with and is tiered to the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (RMP) as amended by the *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (USDI 2007). The 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan incorporated the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan) (USDA and USDI 1994).

The proposed action and alternatives are in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

The proposed action would not create adverse environmental effects under the categorical exclusion exceptions, unless as noted. The proposed action will:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Categorical Exclusion Exception</u>
()	(X)	1. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety.
()	(X)	2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resource; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
()	(X)	3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)] not already decided in an approved land use plan.
()	(X)	4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.

- () (X) 5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
- () (X) 6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but significant cumulative environmental effects. (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25(a)).
- () (X) 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- () (X) 8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.
- () (X) 9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
- () (X) 10. Have disproportionate significant adverse impacts on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
- () (X) 11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).
- () (X) 12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

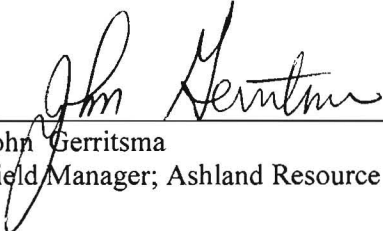
The proposed action has been reviewed against the twelve criteria listed above for an exception to a categorical exclusion and does not fall under any exception as identified in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2. The project qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2.3A (3) and DM 11.9 G (2&3).

<u>Dennis Byrd</u>	<u>Outdoor Recreation Planner</u>	<u>March 12, 2008</u>
Prepared by	Title	Date

<u>Kristi Mastrofini</u>	<u>Environmental Coordinator</u>	<u>March 21, 2008</u>
Reviewed/Edited by	Title	Date

DECISION

Based on the NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW above, I have determined that the proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9 G (2&3) involves no significant impact to the human environment and that no further environmental analysis is required.


John Gerritsma
 Field Manager; Ashland Resource Area

3/25/08
 Date